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CONTENTS

The Business of Historical Societies.....Roscoe O. Bonisteel
Michigan's Forests Over Ten Thousand Years.....Stephen H. Spurr
Commemoration of Michigan's Convention of Assent Held in Washtenaw County's First Courthouse, Ann Arbor, 1836. Historical Summary of the Event.....Herbert H. Bartlett
The Need for a Historical Museum.....Arthur Gallagher
List of Additional Programs and Meetings of the 1966-67 Season.
Message from Our Secretary.

THE BUSINESS OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

By Roscoe O. Bonisteel*

We are witnessing today a spirit of intolerance and rebellion, which attempts to discount history and the lessons it teaches; an attempted alienation of young people from the adult world; a spirit which declares that nothing old is good - that everything is outmoded and outdated - even humans above sixty - all of which in a large measure deprecates the wisdom of our fathers and everything they stood for; the wisdom that has brought us to our present place in world society and given us such an economic position and such affluence that these same detractors of our world, young or otherwise, may have leisure time to find fault and belittle the efforts of others. All this, of course, is history, but dressed up in slightly different attire and is really nothing new - if we know our history.

For some reason or other, history always seems to be on the defensive; people frequently cite the fact that Henry Ford said at one time, "History is the bunk." This, I am sure, is taken out of context. Otherwise, how would we have today the great Greenfield Village. He believed in depicting and restoring the past for the enlightenment of the future. As some of course know, I have been a great admirer of Winston Spencer Churchill, and in his lifetime he wrote a series of sketches about some of his contemporaries. These are delightful to read and I want to share with you a paragraph or two from his recollections of the Earl of Rosebery, who was Prime Minister of England at the turn of the century. Particularly, too, I wish you to note the beauty of the language as well as its value to us from the historical point of view. Of the Earl of Rosebery he wrote:

*A talk delivered before the Society in the spring of 1966, but received in manuscript too late to be included in that summer's issue of Washtenaw Impressions.

One of Ann Arbor's best known attorneys, Mr. Bonisteel has held many positions of trust in the community and the state. He has also found time to devote to his life-long enthusiasm for history: through study, book collecting, writing, and serving for many years as trustee and officer of the Historical Society of Michigan and, recently, of the Ann Arbor Historical Commission.

"His life was set in an atmosphere of tradition. The Past stood ever at his elbow and was the counsellor upon whom he most relied. He seemed to be attended by Learning and History, and to carry into current events an air of ancient majesty. His voice was melodious and deep, and often, when listening, one felt in living contact with the centuries which are gone, and perceived the long continuity of our island tale."

We think everything is new, especially the sit-ins and the placard-carrying opposition to the war in Viet Nam, and again I wish to record a prophecy of Churchill's relating of such conduct:

"In 1933 the students of the Oxford Union, under the inspiration of a Mr. Joad, passed their ever shameful resolution, 'That this House refused to fight for King and Country.'
Laugh it off in England, but in Germany, in Russia, in Italy, in Japan the idea of a decadent, degenerate Britain took deep root and swayed many calculations.
Mussolini, like Hitler, regarded Brittania as a frightened, flabby old woman who at worst would only bluster and was, anyhow, incapable of making war. Lord Lloyd, who was on friendly terms with him, noted how he had been struck by the Joad Resolution of the Oxford undergraduates in 1933 refusing 'to fight for King and Country'."

We listen to public speakers and lecturers in person, on the platform or over the air, and so many of them speak in platitudes and usurp so much time that I question the value. So tonight I want to talk briefly about the business of historical societies. In order to do it I think we in Michigan should have some understanding of historical commissions and societies on the state and local level. I believe that a better job can be done if we have an informed membership and some knowledge of the historical agencies now in existence in Michigan.

To begin at the highest point, we have the Michigan Historical Commission, a statutory commission supported by state appropriations, that is, funds given to it by the legislature. We have other specific commissions dealing with certain projects which are historic in their nature, such as the Mackinaw Island Commission and others. The members of the Michigan Historical Commission are appointed by the governor. Remember, this is statutory.

Then we have the Historical Society of Michigan, a voluntary society, made up of members from various parts of the state, who are interested in history and want to see it promoted in one form or another, and dependent solely upon gifts, grants, and membership fees. Its effectiveness is largely determined by the enthusiasm of the officers and the money available for its purposes. It could be made a strong, virile force in the promotion of history in Michigan. At the present time the Society is seeking to work out a plan to get the R. E. Olds home in Lansing for its state headquarters. I have been in some of the conversations. This has not been formally placed before the Board of Trustees of the Society, but in due course it will be. For the first time, should this be accomplished, the state Society will have a home of its own. But it carries with it what I refer to as "old man overhead," and this is an item to be carefully considered when accepting a gift of this kind.

Then we have certain historical commissions and groups created by ordinances in cities and counties, which receive some support and whose principal function is to call attention to things that should be preserved and, where financially possible,

to help preserve them. We have the Ann Arbor Historical Commission created by city ordinance, which has a good program, though it is not always easy to reach an objective; but we are making some progress and already matters have been referred to us for consideration and action. Then we have the voluntary historical societies and associations incorporated as non-profit corporations. Such a one is the Washtenaw Historical Society, one of the best in the state and held together by a few devoted persons who have made the society a part of their life work, and we in Ann Arbor should be particularly grateful to the people who have kept together such a fine group.

We can think of a number of our best citizens who have participated in keeping our local society alive by giving of their time, nervous energies, and money. Think of Mrs. I. Wm. Groomes and her work, or Lela A. Duff and her historical stories relating to Ann Arbor's past which will help preserve local history of people and homes. There are many men we should salute for their work, but I am sure we would leave out many who should be recognized.

What can a local society do? And what can it do to help itself? It goes without saying that all of you know why a society has been organized and the general purposes of the society, but like all institutions of the kind it must have funds with which to work, and also must be free from domination. This is a great advantage in the voluntary society, but we have to think above the yearly donations, sources of revenue and income in order to effectively operate. There are various ways, of course, that this is done: life memberships, gifts and grants to the society, (and in the case of the Washtenaw Historical Society, being corporate in form, friends of the society can give money each year which no doubt is tax deductible); or setting up and establishing an endowment fund for the maintenance of the society. Surely there are many persons who would be willing to build up a memorial endowment on an annual basis, if encouraged to do so - endowment to provide operating expenses, income for specific preservation, for prizes in essay contests, and in many other areas.

One of the greatest movements in recent years in the area of history has been the museum movement. We are behind in this area in Ann Arbor and in Washtenaw County, and we are missing a great opportunity to reestablish in a museum replicas of the rooms of pioneer homes, of some of our early citizens. In this field you can find great possibilities in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. An outstanding museum could be placed in Ann Arbor, the county seat, where historical artifacts and antique pieces could be displayed, perhaps representing each township in the county.

Consideration should be given to establishing a headquarters for the society and I am confident with a bit of circumspection and imagination and some hard work, that we can get a headquarters as a part of our preservation program.

Some time ago I suggested that a movement in Ann Arbor to establish a Christmas sing could be greatly amplified if we had a proper type of memorial based upon our historic past relating to the toy-making accomplishments of one of our citizens, now deceased, Albert Warnoff. This was not intended to be a statue, but rather something done by an outstanding sculptor and placed where people could gather in the spirit of the object itself as portrayed, to engage in Christmas activities and songs. Historically, Ann Arbor has been very careless in acquiring works of art and sculpture and in preserving some we do have. As I drive through Ypsilanti near the water tower, and I see the statue of the Spanish War Veteran, it reminds me of some of our citizens in the Spanish-American War - John P. Kirk and Ross Granger and William L. Walz, Ralph Perrine and other fine citizens of yesteryear. Ypsilanti has had the foresight to erect a memorial to the memory of General Ypsilanti.

Today when we are being urged to develop our cultural instincts, we might well give heed to some of these things, since where they relate to definite events, they become a part of history, which should be emphasized. I want to conclude by saying that a society should work out a program - fix a worthy objective or two, and bring them to a successful conclusion before starting another program. You cannot scatter your fire and do a good job. A principal part of the objective is money - urging people to give, cultivating the interests of people who can afford to give and who will do so if sufficiently interested.

What has been said encompasses leadership and organization. Much more could be said, but this final comment: a strong state historical society helps to make strong local societies, and it is equally true that strong local societies help to strengthen the state society - all need vigorous dedicated leadership and organization.

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MICHIGAN'S FORESTS OVER TEN THOUSAND YEARS

By Stephen H. Spurr*

(A reprint of an article published in The Michigan Alumnus Quarterly Review - now The Michigan Quarterly Review - Aug. 11, 1956. The basis of a talk given before the Society by Dr. Spurr, March 28, 1967.)

The State of Michigan is at once of the Midwest and of the great American North. One can hardly escape the fact. The rolling farmland with its industrial centers and heavy population make the southern half of the lower peninsula completely different from the forested north with its evergreen bogs and piny sand plains. And nowhere is this distinction more clear-cut than in the forsts of the state. In fact, our very terms of distinction draw upon the forests for characterization. If we can describe the forests we can describe much of the state. Equally, if we can understand how the forests came to be as they are, we can understand much of the history of the land. That is the purpose of this discussion.

The southern part of Michigan is part of the midwestern Great Plains. Oaks and hickories dominate the woodlots that are scattered wherever the land has not been put into pastures or crops. Many other species of hardwoods occur, however, and the forest should perhaps be termed a "mixed hardwood forest" rather than an "oak-hickory" forest. Although the oaks and hickories predominate, they will normally be succeeded by sugar maple, beech, and basswood under present climatic conditions if fire, grazing, and logging are excluded from the woods.

It is perhaps significant that most of the trees of southern Michigan are not found to the north. More than thirty important tree species have their northern limits of distribution in or near the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Among these are seven species of oaks, five of hickory, walnut, yellow poplar (or tulip tree), and white ash. Lower Michigan obviously lies at the northern edge of the central midwestern forest.

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*Stephen H. Spurr, Ph.D., became a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1952, as Professor of Silviculture. At present he is Dean of the Graduate School.

At the northern edge of the state, the forest is similar to that found across much of Canada. This northern forest is characterized by the northern conifers, especially spruces, fir, red and jack pines, and tamarack (or larch). Significantly again, at least eight of the relatively few northern species have their southern limits of distribution in or near the state. The true northern forest lies across Lake Superior in Canada, but the forest types of the Upper Peninsula are essentially northern in their affinities.

Forest zones are notoriously indistinct, and much of central Michigan supports transitional forest types that have characteristics intermediate between those of the great central and the great northern forests. This transition zone has its own characteristic species, for approximately twenty have ranges that extend well to the north and well to the south of the region. Chief among these are white pine, hemlock, red and sugar maple, yellow birch, the aspens, black cherry, red oak, basswood, beech, and the American elm. These trees, by themselves or in combination with either the central or the northern species, form the characteristic vegetation of the upper half of the Lower Peninsula and much of the Upper Peninsula.

We can then visualize three broad bands of forests sweeping from east to west across the state - a northern strip of spruce and fir; a central strip of aspen, maple, red oak, white pine, and other species; and a southern strip of oaks and hickories with an admixture of many other trees. In a broad sense this concept is correct; but if that was all there was to the picture, we could say that the distribution of our forests is due to our climate and the story would be over.

Unfortunately, the picture is not that simple. Many anomalies occur. The great forest is gone and the lumber industry based on it has largely died with it. In its place is a patchwork of second growth, scrub, and semi-open woodland. One type of forest grows next to a totally different type in seemingly complete lack of pattern. Species once common may now be rare or even locally absent, while other trees have taken on a predominance and importance that would have been scarcely credited by early voyageurs. The complex pattern of the present-day forests can only be due to a complex history.

The recent elements of this history are well known, and much of the forest map of today can be explained in terms of the pattern of land clearing, logging, and fire. To the settler of the eighteen hundreds, the forests were something that prevented farming and were to be eliminated as soon as possible. Clear-cutting and burning were the rule of the day to convert wild land into farms. Some of the logs found their way into lumber to build farm houses and barns, but most went up in smoke. As settlement moved north and west through the state, habits remained much the same. Even with the development of an immense logging industry, the loggers were looked upon as transients who were making money for themselves while clearing the land for future farming. Timber pirating, clear-cutting, and wild fires were the order of the day and elicited little concern. Only when a fire happened to burn vast areas, as did the two-and-one-half-million-acre burn of lower Michigan in 1871, or the million-acre fire in the Thumb that took one hundred and seventy lives in 1881, did fires make newspaper headlines. And so, in the last half of the nineteenth century, the forests of the Lower Peninsula were so completely despoiled that not enough timber pine was left to reseed more than a fraction of one per cent of the cut-over land. In 1956, there remain about a dozen stands of old-growth pine in lower Michigan with a total acreage of less than four hundred acres. Only a few tens of thousands of acres in the whole state are covered with old-growth forests of any type. The remainder of the nineteen million acres of forest land supports sprout forests of hardwoods, aspens, jack pine and other second-growth, much of it understocked. It is this second-growth that is forming the basis for the rebirth of the paper industry in lower Michigan today.

The story thus far is familiar, as are the subsequent chapters dealing with the awakening of a public conscience in conservation and the tediously slow recovery of the forests, both through natural processes and through constructive action by foresters. There is another story, however, that has been emerging in the past decade that may well be told. It deals with the history of the forests up to the time of settlement and logging, and it is only now being uncovered by the combined efforts of foresters, botanists, geologists, and physicists.

We may start with a forest of buried wood on the shore of Lake Michigan at Two Creeks, a settlement not far north of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. After a rare easterly storm, one may see a buried soil profile halfway up the lake bank with spruce trees rooted naturally in it. Two things make it remarkable. First, this forest is covered by fifteen to twenty feet of red earth, obviously colored with iron ore and containing occasional copper-bearing rocks. This is the residue of the last glacier that swept down on the Lake Michigan basin from the northwest, picking up rock debris from the iron and copper country. The forest thus predates the last glaciation. Second, the age of the wood can be determined. A byproduct of the atomic age is the discovery that freshly synthesized organic material contains a definite proportion of radio-active carbon - carbon 14 - taken from the atmosphere. Since the rate of decomposition of this carbon 14 is known, the age of a piece of wood can be determined by comparing the amount of radio-active carbon in it with that of a fresh piece. Thus, we now know that this spruce forest grew eleven thousand four hundred years ago and was subsequently covered by ice that moved down the Lake Michigan basin about as far as Milwaukee.

Michigan is therefore one of the most recently uncovered areas in the world. Less than eleven thousand years ago, the Upper Peninsula and the upper portions of the Lower Peninsula were covered by what is known as the Valders ice. Similarly, we have found that virtually all of the state was covered by the preceding Cary ice some thirteen thousand years ago. At the time that early man was living in the American southwest, Michigan was in a state of frozenness comparable to Greenland today.

Michigan has been dry land, therefore, for only ten thousand years or so, and our forests have all moved in since the melting of the glaciers. One would assume that the hardiest trees - such as are now found in Canada - would have been the first to follow the ice into Michigan, and that species after species moved from the south back into Michigan as the climate moderated.

Fortunately, we have at our disposal a technique for testing this hypothesis and charting the migration of trees into Michigan following the retreat of the ice. The northern bog is a perfect pickling solution with its highly acid waters almost completely free from oxygen and consequently from decaying organisms. It preserves pollen grains just as a vinegar crock preserves cucumbers. By systematically sampling each level of a bog, the botanist can isolate the pollen grains that blew into the bog at the time each level was being deposited. These grains can be identified as to the general type of tree and sometimes even to the individual species. Through such pollen analysis, the sequence of vegetation in a given area can be determined.

Approximately twenty bogs throughout the southern peninsula of Michigan have been sampled for pollen analysis since 1940. Techniques have improved during this time, so it is only for a few of these that we have any idea of the exact species of pine and spruce that grew at different times in the past - and it is only in one case that we have carbon 14 datings to establish precisely the age of key horizons in the pollen profile.

The general picture is clear. White spruce first invaded the ice-freed land, together with black spruce and balsam fir, species which increase somewhat in abundance with time. The time was twelve to thirteen thousand years ago in southern Michigan, and ten to eleven thousand in the areas to the north covered by the Valders ice. The pines came next, first the jack pine and later the white, with red pine being present throughout later times. The pine period is dated by carbon 14 at South Haven at about six to seven thousand years ago. As the pines became less abundant (but still remained important), the oaks came strongly into the picture and reached their maximum from four to five thousand years ago. Finally, in the last three to four thousand years, came species such as beech, basswood, hemlock, maple, black gum, and the walnuts. Difficulties in distinguishing individual species within most genera, coupled with varying fluctuations of pollen percentages in different bog studies, make the details sometimes indistinct and sometimes contradictory.

The different stages of the forest find their counterpart in different stages of the Great Lakes. Former high levels are marked by abandoned beaches and shore lines. A pronounced lower level (Lake Chippewa) is indicated by the discovery of a river channel buried three hundred and fifty feet below the water in the Straits of Mackinac and by shallow-water sands found to a depth of three hundred and fifty feet beneath the waters of Lake Michigan.

Thus, we know that eight thousand five hundred years ago, when the land was covered by a spruce and fir forest, there was one single Great Lake - named Lake Algonquin - that stood twenty-three feet higher than the present Lakes Michigan and Huron. The melting ice probably calved off into this lake from the north, as the warp in the shorelines indicates a considerable depression of the northern Michigan area at that time, presumably under the weight of nearby glaciers. Furthermore, a study of the abandoned shoreline shows that many more streams existed then than now and that the streams were individually much larger. Clearly, eight thousand five hundred years ago, Michigan lay cloaked in a cold wet climate and its land supported the northern spruce and fir forest we find in cold wet climates today. We might stretch a point and say that the climate of Michigan then was similar to that of Newfoundland or of Norway today.

If we proceed through history to the pine stage, we find that this occurred coincidentally with early civilization in the Near East, and with the low-water stage of the Great Lakes - possibly some three hundred and fifty feet lower than present Lakes Michigan and Huron. The pines as a group grow on dry soils and in dry climates, and they owe their prominence to repeated fires set by lightning or by man. All of these remarks hold particularly for jack pine, the dominant species during the pine period. The inference is clear, from both the lakes and the trees, that the climate of Michigan was unusually dry during this period of history. Since jack pine is a northern species, however, the climate was also likely cool.

The oak period and the increase in other hardwoods reached its maximum at the same time that the single high-water Great Lake reappeared for the last time. Lake Nipissing covered the present Superior, Huron, and Michigan basins, and its abandoned shore lines are still impressive, somewhat lower than the older Lake Algonquin shores in northern Michigan. Whereas the geological evidence of the Lake Algonquin shores indicates a wet climate, that of Nipissing indicates a dry climate, as the stream valleys entering the lake are few, narrow, and have the characteristic conformation of valleys found today in fairly arid regions. The oaks and the other hardwoods indicate a warmer climate, while the abandoned shore and stream features together with the dominance of the oaks - characteristic dry country species - indicate a drier climate. Thus, we can be relatively sure that only three thousand

five hundred years ago, when there existed a single Great Lake Nipissing, the climate of Michigan was substantially warmer and drier than it had been in the past and than it is today.

Climatic changes haven't ceased. Two examples will suffice. The Norsemen settled Greenland a thousand years ago, raising many head of cattle on what is now frozen land and traversing sea lanes blocked with floating ice but a century ago. Washington wintered his army at Valley Forge and Napoleon invaded Russia when the recorded mean annual temperature at our oldest weather stations was three degrees lower than it is today, and when glaciers and ice packs all over the world were far more extensive than they now are. All the evidence points to the fact that climate is a constantly changing thing. We may not know what our climate will be like in the future, but if the past is any gauge, it will be different from what it is today.

As we look over our present forests in the light of this history - much of it newly unraveled with the aid of radioactive carbon dating and pollen analysis techniques - much of the seeming meaninglessness of the trees disappears and a definite pattern emerges. In southern Michigan, spruces, tamarack, and other northern species grow in bogs. Weather studies in such bogs tell us that here the winter temperatures are ten to fifteen degrees colder than on surrounding uplands and here the growing season is up to two months shorter. Clearly, the spruces persist today where the local climate approximates that of Canada - and that of Michigan when spruce was the dominant vegetation eight thousand years ago.

Jack and red pines are still the dominant vegetation on the sand plains in the central part of the Northern Peninsula. On such sites, the coarse sands create extremely dry growing conditions, while the flat surfaces gather the winter cold - witness the common winter temperatures reported from Cadillac and Pellston. Here we have the cold, dry growing conditions characteristic of most of Michigan six thousand years ago when the lakes were shrunken to half their present size.

As the weather moderated but remained dry, oaks and other hardwoods from the south moved north into Michigan. Oaks have remained the dominant vegetation in lower Michigan, where the climate is mild, and have kept their foothold to the north on the warmer south-facing slopes - local spots where the climate is milder than elsewhere in the same localities. During the warm dry climate of three thousand five hundred years, agricultural Indians settled the area, often burning the forests and causing the replacement of woods by prairies in some southern parts of the state. Fire and grazing have helped maintain the oak forest.

If the spruces, the pines, and the oaks are relics of the past and persist where local climates give them competitive advantages, then the beech, the maples, and basswood represent the climates of the present - of the past few thousand years. Where the local climate is average for the region, these are the species that are gradually taking over the forest in the absence of fire, heavy logging, and other severe disturbances that actually change the climate near the ground, where the trees must begin their life. Each minor fluctuation of the climate, however, changes the balance of the forest. The warm trend of the past hundred years has effectively prevented the natural reseeding of aspen in the Lower Peninsula (our popple stands are composed of sprouts from the roots of trees that seeded in during colder and wetter days), and have inhibited the natural reseeding of spruces, firs, and pines, the valuable timber species of the northern forest. Changing climate is clearly a matter of concern to the silviculturist - the practicing woods forester. Only by learning the past can we interpret the present and predict the future. Michigan has only a short past, 11 to 13,000 years, and what we have learned should aid us in planning for the wise use of our natural resources.

COMMEMORATION OF MICHIGAN'S CONVENTION OF ASSENT
held in
WASHTENAW COUNTY'S FIRST COURTHOUSE, ANN ARBOR, 1836.

SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR
Wendell E. Hulcher, Mayor
and the Council

Under the auspices of
THE ANN ARBOR HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chairman of the Day, Roscoe O. Bonisteel, Sr.
General Chairman of the Celebration, Herbert H. Bartlett

Hosts and Donors of the Historical Marker
THE WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Bent F. Nielsen, Chairman

TEXT OF THE HISTORICAL MARKER:

Unveiled May 26, 1967, on the site of 1836 Convention of Assent, Washtenaw County Courthouse, Ann Arbor.

MICHIGAN BECOMES A STATE

On this site, in 1836, delegates from all parts of Michigan met in Washtenaw County's first courthouse to consider a proposal by Congress for settling the boundary dispute between Michigan and Ohio. Both claimed a narrow strip of land, including the present city of Toledo. Congress proposed giving the greater part of the Upper Peninsula to Michigan while awarding the "Toledo Strip" to Ohio. In September, the first "Convention of Assent" rejected this proposal. Support for the plan increased, and a second meeting was called. On a bitterly cold December 14, the famous "Frost Bitten Convention" gave its assent to the Congressional plan. This action cleared the way for the admission of Michigan as a state into the Union on January 26, 1837.

(Michigan Historical Commission Registered Site No. 261.)

MICHIGAN'S CONVENTION OF ASSENT
By Herbert H. Bartlett*

(Reprint from the Official Program: a condensation of a talk given by Mr. Bartlett at a meeting of the Washtenaw Historical Society, Nov. 21, 1966.)

1967 marks the 130th anniversary of the admission of Michigan into the Union. This year has the added significance of coinciding with the University's Sesquicentennial Celebration of the founding of the University in Detroit in 1817. Also, the 130th anniversary of the transfer of the University from Detroit to Ann Arbor in 1837.

As a necessary preliminary to admission, the Convention of Assent held in Ann Arbor the preceding year, 1836, was undoubtedly the most significant event in Michigan's early history.

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*Herbert H. Bartlett, civil engineer, former president of this Society, and current chairman of the Ann Arbor Historical Commission, has devoted much time to matters concerning local and state history, with special investigation of "the Chicago Road."

At the end of the Revolutionary War the new United States of America consisted of the original thirteen colonies, now states, and a large area lying westward to the Mississippi River, and "northwest of the River Ohio."

After Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut had ceded their overlapping claims in this area to the United States, it became public domain and was known as the Northwest Territory.

Plans for subdividing it into "not less than three nor more than five states" had been formulated in the famous Ordinance of 1787, the "Northwest Ordinance."

This great document was prepared contemporaneously with the Constitution of the United States by an exceptional group of men who were directly influenced by the founders of this country and who were, even then, organizing the most successful form of government ever conceived by man.

The Ordinance of 1787 ranks as one of the great state papers of all time. Rightly praised "for what it accomplished and what it inspired", it was said to be "perhaps the most notable instance of legislation that was ever enacted by representatives of the American people." Its principles were so fundamentally sound that they were incorporated in the State Constitution of Michigan as well as of many other states.

Notwithstanding the near perfection of the Ordinance, its framers were handicapped by the lack of accurate knowledge of the geography of the area. They used early maps which showed the south end of Lake Michigan many miles farther north of its actual location. This started a chain of controversies leading directly to the Convention of Assent - and not yet ended.

The Ordinance specified that the boundary line between the three southern and the two northern states to be formed from this area should be "an east and west line drawn through the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan."

This line, besides being actually much farther south than it was supposed to be, was a purely arbitrary boundary and took no account of the geo-economic needs of the states involved, especially as they pertained to harbors in both Lake Michigan and Lake Erie. As a consequence, each of the first three states to be formed, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, in turn violated this boundary, at the expense of Michigan and Wisconsin, which were organized later.

Although qualified before that time, it was not until 1834 that Michigan became really interested in being admitted to the Union. However, before she could be admitted her boundaries had to be agreed upon. Ohio had already been admitted, with her constitution establishing her northern boundary well north of the east-west line. Michigan insisted on the east-west "Ordinance" line. Possession of the narrow strip of territory between the two lines, including the present city of Toledo, the harbor and the mouth of the Maumee River, was the basis of the controversy.

But there were other reasons Michigan wished immediate admission. One was to make her eligible to receive a badly needed half million dollars in federal money which might become available to her - but only if she were a State.

Of even greater importance was the fact that, as a State, Michigan's controversy with Ohio would then go to the Supreme Court for settlement, on legal considerations, rather than to the Congress, where Territorial claims were settled, and where it would be subjected to political considerations, as it had been up to that time.

With these strong incentives for immediate Statehood, Michigan had everything to gain by early admission. Feelings ran high. Each state called out its militia and fought what was called the "Toledo War." Before any blood could be shed, Congress intervened and proposed as a solution that Michigan relinquish all claim to the "Toledo Strip"; then, to compensate for her loss, approximately two-thirds of the Upper Peninsula would be added to Michigan Territory when it was admitted to the Union as a State.

This marked the first complete geographical definition of the Upper Peninsula, and its recognition as a major unit in the State of Michigan - the birth of the "Upper Peninsula," in a sense. To seal the compromise Congress required that "a convention of delegates from all parts of Michigan, elected for the sole purpose of giving assent" must meet and formally agree to these terms. The Territorial Legislature authorized the election of the delegates and specified "that said convention shall meet in the courthouse in the Village of Ann Arbor" on the second Monday following the election.

The convention of 49 delegates representing 27 of the counties then organized, met from September 26 to 30, 1836, but, after heated debate and the rejection of several proposed alternatives, by a vote of 28 to 21, it dissented.

Most Michigan citizens, however, demanded admission to the Union. Governor Stevens T. Mason publicly stated that a second convention could be called directly by the people, without the necessity of official state action. Acting on this suggestion, 18 counties elected 82 delegates to a second convention. This time only delegates favoring assent were elected.

In spite of its questionable legality, this second convention, the famous "frost-bitten convention", met in Ann Arbor on a bitterly cold December 14. It speedily voted its assent to Congress' terms and adjourned the following day. Notification of assent was delivered to President Jackson on December 24 and referred to Congress on December 27, 1836. After some further debate the Admission Act was finally passed. The following day, January 26, 1837, the President signed it, admitting Michigan to the Union with its present boundaries.

What of the delegates to these conventions? Practically without exception they were men of integrity and high standing in their communities. As was to be expected from the nature of the counties they represented, they were predominantly of rural backgrounds: farmers and loggers, mechanics and tradesmen, merchants and bankers, surveyors, doctors, teachers, one editor, with a goodly number of lawyers and public officeholders. In age they varied from 27 to 70, but with a tendency toward younger to middle-aged men. Their intelligence was relatively high, but few had attended college. Many had little formal education.

Some had been delegates to Michigan's Constitutional Convention the year before. For most, however, this was their first venture in public office. Some later went on to serve in the State Legislature, Congress, or the courts. There were some exceptional men among them.

Politically there were few Whigs, but there was a distinct schism between the liberal and the conservative democrats. Their voting record plainly indicates a strict discipline which seldom permitted any variance from the bloc voting of the various county delegations. Likewise, the same counties were to be found allied on the same side on the different ballots - no fence jumping. They were men of strong opinions,freely expressed. Over half rebelled against Congress' stipulations in the first convention, and Monroe, Macomb, and Chippewa counties boycotted the 2nd convention, as did many first convention delegates.

They were strongly independent in their opinions. They knew what had to be done - and they did it.

These stirring events, and the part played in them by Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County, have never received the public recognition their importance justified. We hope this celebration, through the participation of the counties involved and the historical societies throughout the state, will awaken a new sense of the importance and the deep significance of the history of the State of Michigan and its relation to the history of our Nation.

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THE NEED FOR A HISTORICAL MUSEUM

By Arthur Gallagher*

(A talk delivered at the May 15, 1967, meeting of the Society)

This is the first time I can recall having been asked to make a talk and then having about half of the people in town set out to write the talk for me. Ordinarily this would be a great help, but in this case it presented some problems, too. How can you discuss the need for a historical museum when the situation is changing so fast you're never sure you have the latest information? I talked as late as Friday with both Roscoe Bonisteel and City Attorney Jake Fahrner, but who knows what may have happened since then?

Actually, all of this action on the subject of a historical museum for Washtenaw County is a fine thing, as I am sure all of you are aware. Only through intense citizen interest and the interest of governmental bodies and/or organizations are such projects successful.

As Paul indicated, I am a comparative newcomer to Ann Arbor; measured in terms of history, 35 years is not long, but I am like so many others who came to Ann Arbor to attend the University and then couldn't leave.

The small city of South Haven where I attended high school had only two illustrious sons, the famous botanist and horticulturist, Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, and Dr. Lawrence McKinley Gould, geologist and educator and second in command of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition; but, small as it is, the town has an historical museum named for the late Dr. Bailey and supported by the Park Board. I'll mention a few of the other museum efforts around the state a little later, but I kind of have the feeling that I am talking to a group of people who know more about my subject than I do.

In a way, I suppose, editing a newspaper is a form of participation in history - "instant history" perhaps. They say nothing is deader than yesterday's newspaper, but if it is part of the history of a town it isn't dead. History can be made vibrant and alive. We have had some people on The News who were and are intensely interested in Washtenaw County's history. The late Sydney P. Cook was one of them. The indignant protests in his column against replacing the fire department's trusty horses with the unreliable gas-powered trucks were not serious, but Syd had a great appreciation for the events and people that figured in the history of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. Eck Stanger is our encyclopedia of Washtenaw County history and a valuable member of the Ann Arbor Historical Commission. When we occasionally have something historically incorrect in a local story in The News, I may come

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*Mr. Gallagher, editor of The Ann Arbor News since 1954, has generously opened its pages to countless articles, pictures, letters, etc., on the subject and concerns of local and county history.

charging into the news room waving a copy of the paper only to find that Eck is already on the phone to the city editor from the photography department pointing out the error.

Doug Fulton, of course, is another News staffer with a great interest in conservation and natural resources. The things Doug is trying to do for Ann Arbor are in some ways in the same category as the goals of the historical groups who are striving to preserve the best in Ann Arbor's past and give the new generations an appreciation of their heritage.

My own claims to action in the field of history are meager. I was chairman of the Mayor's Committee to name the new bridge over the Huron and the railroad tracks at the north edge of the city some years ago, and according to my friend, the late Rudy Reichert, I botched that job. We named the span the Huron Valley Bridge, and Rudy said they'd never call it anything but the Whitmore Lake Rd. Bridge. We're trying mightily to prove Rudy wrong by referring to it over and over in The News as the Huron Valley Bridge, but only time will tell.

While there has been a lot of interest shown recently in projects to preserve objects of historical interest in Washtenaw County - and it should be pointed out that this interest has been shown by many of you over a long period of years - the obstacles to historical projects are well known. Groups with limited budgets are not the only ones faced with problems when it comes to establishing museums or preserving historic structures. Do you remember this news story out of New York City only a few months ago:

WRECKERS BEGIN RAZING OLD 'MET'

New York (AP). Jan. 18, 1967 - The old Metropolitan Opera House which reverberated to the best voices of three generations, now echoes with the sound of its own destruction.

A year-long battle to save the 85-year-old structure ended in defeat Thursday afternoon with the signing of a routine $200 demolition permit.

Soon afterward steel-helmeted wreckers stood above the stage that was the scene of numerous international operatic triumphs and pounded sledgehammers through the roof.

The city of Saline may do better than New York did in the matter of saving an historic structure. A group of citizens there recently organized to save the Mills House built in 1833, and the project seems to have a good chance of succeeding.

Other cities in Michigan appear to have had a rebirth of interest in historical museums in recent years.

In Saginaw, for example, the Saginaw Historical Museum opened its own building only last December, the home of a former lumber baron which is being bought by the Saginaw Historical Society. The Society has existed for 20 years, has about 350 members and is financed by memberships, donations, and revenue-producing events ranging from sales to fee-programs. The Society had previously stored items anywhere it could. Sound familiar?

Flint, too, only recently dedicated a new museum, although historical organizations have been active in Flint at least since 1913. Collections of historical objects have been displayed for many years in the Genesee County Courthouse. Thirty years ago the decision was made to establish a museum of transportation because of Flint's unique background in the automobile industry. Last November the

first of three units of the Alfred P. Sloan Jr. Panorama of Transportation and Flint Historical Museum was dedicated. It is a new building. The Flint Board of Education and the Sponsors of the Flint College and Cultural Development are allied in the effort.

Bay County's Historical Museum, governed by the Bay County Historical Society, is one of the most interesting organizations because it is so closely tied to the county government and the schools. Housed since 1934 in the County Building, the Bay County Historical Museum will move into its own quarters next fall - a 2-story house recently purchased by the Society. The museum is financed by dues of Society members, gifts, and allocations of county funds. In planning for the museum's major expansion into new quarters, the Society asked the county for $48,398 for operation in 1968, including $12,000 for a director and $9,000 for advanced professional services, as well as money to move. Indications are that this request will be pared down to less than $20,000, and the Society presently has a fund-raising drive planned and has requests for money before five boards of education in Bay County. The museum has storage centers in an old school and three business places, and much of its activity consists of setting up historical displays for schools. We noted in one of the clippings from the Bay City Times that the chairman of the museum committee at one point recently was Dr. Louis Doll, formerly of Ann Arbor and the author of a history of St. Thomas parish in Ann Arbor.

In Jackson, the Ella Sharp Museum was launched about four years ago. It is located in city-owned Ella Sharp Park, in a house left to the city in Mrs. Sharp's will to be used as a museum. Instead, over the years, the city used it to house its park director. The Museum Association, headed by an industrialist, negotiated a lease with the city to use the house after it was able to show the city that it could raise $35,000 to rehabilitate the building and to finance museum operations for three years ($15,000 a year). The money was raised entirely from private sources. Earlier this month, three University of Michigan graduate students completed a long-range plan for the museum which the association directors intend to use in their upcoming campaign for more members and private foundation support for capital expenditures.

Closer to home, the Ypsilanti City Council last year created a Historical Commission, charged with the responsibility of advising the Council on matters of preserving historical materials and records. It includes nine appointed members and an appointed City Historian. The Council budgets $800 a year, used almost exclusively for clerical help. One of the Commission's first acts was to interest the Ypsilanti Historical Society in a cooperative effort to establish a historical museum. Space was provided in the basement of the library, and $2,000 was made available for remodeling. Most of the cleaning, painting and building was done by volunteers, and it was opened last August. The city has provided the space on a five-year $1 per year lease basis. It also provides heat, water, electricity, and telephone.

Muskegon's struggle makes interesting reading also. Its museum was started in 1938 from funds left over from the Centennial Exposition. The Board of Education allowed use of a vacant school for collections. The museum was moved to a house in 1940. Later it was moved to another vacant school, and then rising enrollments forced them out again and the collections were put in storage. Another home was provided, but a financial crisis occurred in 1946 when the attorney general ruled county's $4,000 annual appropriation was illegal, limited by law to $600. City schools at that time were contributing about $2,800 yearly in space and utilities.

Local legislators introduced a bill to void the appropriation limit of $600, and in meantime this is what Muskegon did. The county added $3,400 to its appropriation to the Veterans Counseling Center, in return for the Community Fund making $3,400 available to the Museum. That cozy arrangement ended with the discontinuance of the Veterans Center. The museum closed for lack of funds in 1948 and reopened in 1949 with a private gift of $4,000 and a matching amount from the county. The Historical Society was incorporated as a nonprofit group in 1950, and last word from Muskegon is that the present quarters - the former county jail, a building now owned by the museum - is overcrowded, and there are new problems to be faced.

You see how much excitement Ann Arbor has missed.

These are only a few of the museums operating in Michigan, and not all have had such troubles. It was interesting to me to note the number of cities or counties that have established historical museums only in recent years. Washtenaw is not so far off the pace, but time is running out for us. The valuable historical items owned by the Washtenaw Historical Society are scattered, land values are soaring, and the character of the city is changing under the impetus of fantastic growth.

All of you are aware of these things. This awareness helps to account for most of the moves that have been made in recent weeks to "pin down" a site or building for a Washtenaw County Historical Museum. Most of these moves have centered about the Cornelius W. Tuomy estate on Washtenaw Avenue, and the provision in Mr. Tuomy's will which says the family homestead "and adequate adjacent grounds, if the same may be so used, be made available for some historical or public purpose." Letters have been written to the City Council requesting clarification of the bequest; talks have been held between city officials and executors of the estate, between officers of this organization and city officials, and between citizens and city officials and executors of the Tuomy estate. The city attorney has made a preliminary report to council; he may say something further tonight. The question may well be asked: what is the status of the Tuomy bequest at this point?

On February 7, 1966, the Ann Arbor News printed an editorial entitled "Grateful Citizens Return Something To Ann Arbor," and I quote it in full:

> Twice within the past two years Ann Arbor has been the recipient of generous bequests from long-time residents. First was the Elizabeth Dean Fund of nearly two million dollars to preserve the city's beauty through the planting of trees. Last week the will of Cornelius W. (Bill) Tuomy revealed large gifts to the University of Michigan, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, St. Francis Catholic Church, and the community.
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> The gift to the community was in the form of a bequest of the Tuomy family home at 2117 Washtenaw Ave. and "adequate" adjacent grounds "to be available for some historic or public purpose."
>
> It has already been suggested that the old home on Washtenaw, at least part of which is believed to be more than a century old, be preserved as an historical museum. Ann Arbor attorney Roscoe O. Bonisteel, for many years a leader in state-wide efforts to collect and preserve articles and documents of historical value, has also been leading efforts of the Washtenaw Historical Society to establish a permanent home for its collections. The Campbell farm on Packard Rd. has been considered a possibility for such a project, and the Tuomy bequest now seems to present the opportunity for early action toward establishing a museum.

The Tuomy homestead itself, with accessibility from a street other than busy Washtenaw Ave., offers fine possibilities It is near the population center of the county, has ample space, and its own history is tied in with the pioneering days of Washtenaw County. German and Irish families were prominent in the early history of the area.

Cornelius W. (Bill) Tuomy and his sister, Katherine, who died less than a year before her brother, were members of a pioneering Washtenaw County family. Their grandfather, Timothy Tuomy, came from County Kerry, Ireland. Timothy and a brother, John, in 1838 purchased a farm in Scio township. Bill Tuomy's father, Cornelius L., was born on the old homestead in Scio, and he bought the Ann Arbor township farm, now on Washtenaw Ave., in 1874. He was a teacher for a time, served as township supervisor, and for a brief period around the turn of the century operated a milk route in Ann Arbor in conjunction with the dairy operations on his farm.

Bill Tuomy operated the farm for many years in conjunction with numerous other interests. The subdividing and developing of the area now known as Tuomy Hills occupied the attention of Mr. Tuomy and his sister for many years. Much of the east side of the city with its beautiful homes was originally a part of the Tuomy farm. The Irish ancestry of the developers is reflected in the names they chose for some of the more recently platted streets, including Tuomy Rd., Kearney Rd., Londonderry and Shannondale Rds. Kearney was their mother's maiden name, and her family came from County Tipperary.

In the 1890's the farm, which included 227 acres, was described in an old Washtenaw County history as being "about one mile east of the city."

The Tuomys developed the area gradually, and much of it remained in the township until it was annexed. That was the reason for the unusual sight of a flock of sheep grazing on the Tuomy farm hillside on Washtenaw Ave. half a mile within the city limits. In 1948, the Tuomy sheep escaped through a broken fence and held up traffic on Washtenaw until their owner could round them up.

Memories of the Tuomy family will live in the names of streets they developed, but more importantly, in their generous gifts to the University, the hospital, and their church. It is particularly appropriate, however, that they reserved one major bequest for the community at large, with the stipulation that it be used for some "historic or public purpose."

Any community is richer for having among its residents those who are willing and even eager to return something for the benefits they have enjoyed. Ann Arbor is frequently classed as one of the most desirable places in the country in which to live. Not often do its beneficiaries "respond in kind" as generously as the Tuomys have.

What was said then is just as true today. The Tuomy home and grounds, about two acres, are available for a historical museum, if co-executors of the estate, Roscoe O. Bonisteel, Jr., and the Ann Arbor Bank, are satisfied that the property would be properly maintained, and that adequate funds were available for that purpose. What is an "adequate" funding? An endowment with a fixed income for maintenance would probably best suit the executors, but that seems not to be a firm requirement. There is also the matter of preparing the building for public usage, if it indeed fits the need for a museum, and that could mean a substantial additional sum.

There have been questions raised as to the adequacy of the grounds that go with the Tuomy homestead for a museum and suggestions that the term "adequate adjacent grounds" permits the executors to enlarge such a gift for an historical museum. I am not an attorney, but I have studied the will and even a layman can see that great discretion lies with the co-executors in the handling of this estate. Nevertheless there are reasons why I am convinced that the gift will not - perhaps cannot - be more than the two acres. One of the reasons is that there is a residual legatee: in other words, what is given to one is taken from another.

This doesn't necessarily mean that the museum site must be limited to two acres, if it is decided that area is inadequate. The city has considered the possibility of purchasing additional acreage along Washtenaw Ave.

Perhaps it would be well at this point to present the complete paragraph of the Tuomy will relating to the possibility of establishing a historical museum. Provision No. 26 is as follows:

> "At the present time the major portion of my estate consists of real estate in residential lots, the old family homestead, and some commercial property. It is my intention that the homestead and adequate adjacent grounds, if the same may be so used, be made available for some historical or public purpose; and the co-executors and/or co-trustees herein named, knowing of my above intentions, are hereby authorized to do with the homestead as they deem advisable, consistent with such intentions. In the event the foregoing is or becomes impossible to consummate, then the co-executors and/or co-trustees, as the case may be, shall use their discretion as to the ultimate disposition of such family homestead."

While the Tuomy gift appears to be the prime opportunity for establishment of an historical museum, there are a number of other possibilities, as suggested in the recent fine special report by the Ann Arbor Historical Commission.

One is the Campbell property at Buhr Park. The city has some $35,000 set aside for purchase of this building and land and is anxious to protect the city's interests in retaining this as a part of the park development there. Historical groups have long considered this a fine prospect for an historical museum, and Roscoe Bonisteel, Sr., made the interesting observation the other day that the original Campbell and Tuomy farms adjoined at one point. It would have to be established whether the building could be retained without too costly rehabilitation, but the land should be held for public use in any event. A life tenancy agreement with the owners has been sought.

Incidentally, Goal 11 of the recent Ann Arbor Area Goals Conference Report says: "We should recommend that the tax assessment policies in regard to property within the city be changed, to enable citizens within the community, especially the central core and those people having property of historical value, to give to the city their properties with lifetime tenancy provisions, and to have their taxes reduced or forgiven for this act."

The City Planning Commission recently included among its recommendations to the City Council that it consider construction of an historical museum, and in a letter to Mr. Irving G. Reimann, director of the University's Exhibit Museum, also recently, City Planning Director Raymond Martin said it has long been his position that the central fire station "could well serve the purpose of an historical museum."

Obviously, that building would be ideal from many considerations, and the city is going to need a new central fire station in the not too distant future. What could be better than an historical museum in a building which itself has historical significance?

A real test of Ann Arbor's interest in preserving something of the past could result from a proposal to put expensive downtown property to such a purpose.

Many fine old homes have been mentioned from time to time in connection with historical preservation projects. Probably not all of them would pass an architect's critical survey for historical value, and there are other reasons why some of them could not be considered, but the chances of saving some of them aren't getting any better. I won't list the houses, because you know them better than I do, except to suggest that the Kempf house on Division St. is small enough and probably sturdy enough to survive to survive the costly job of house-moving to a site - shall we say - like the Tuomy property. This is assuming that it would have to be moved, and I don't know that such is the case.

There appears to be a new emphasis in America today on aesthetic values, featuring projects of conservation and restoration. The government is not alone in such interest; foundations are giving generously toward programs to preserve the past. The April Council on Foundations newsletter notes that nearly 40 philanthropic foundations contributed to the construction and furnishing of the new reception wing of the Gracie Mansion, official residence of the mayor of New York.

Other recent contributions: $5,000 from the Rhode Island Foundation to the Cramston, R.I., Historical Society to save the mansion of that state's Civil War governor; $2,000 for the restoration of a blacksmith's home in Kingston Village, and $5,000 each to the Colonial Dames of Rhode Island and the Newport Artillery for the preservation and maintenance of Newport area buildings; two grants of $10,000 each from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for restoration of area structures, including the Noah Webster house; $2,000 from the Brookville (Ind.) Foundation to match the Franklin County Historical Society allocation for restoration of one of the oldest churches in that community; $15,000 from the Norfolk Foundation to buy and preserve structures of historic interest and value; and $15,000 from the Max Fleischmann Foundation to the Northeastern Nevada Historical Society for new facilities.

Perhaps it should be added here that the Ann Arbor Area Foundation is one of the groups included in recent discussions here among city officials and historical groups. The foundation is new and its funds limited; the thinking was that at this time the foundation's help might be in a direction other than grants.

The interest shown in recent months in various projects and proposals associated with the history of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County can't help being heartening to all of you who have worked so hard to preserve something of this area's past. There is interest in the city administration, the Planning Commission, the City Council, the schools, and among many individuals and organizations. The Bolgos family donation of the Sugar Bush, publication of several books on Ann Arbor history, the West Side Project to preserve some of "Old Ann Arbor," and stirrings toward development - from an historical viewpoint - of the area in the neighborhood of the Municipal Market, are indications that Ann Arbor wants to keep some of the best of the past to put with the city's modern facade.

Everyone should read the special report of the Ann Arbor Historical Commission. It is another group on the move. It is easy to say that Washtenaw County should

have made its moves in the "quiet days" before the postwar boom and skyrocketing property costs, but it is not too late and the records of numerous other historical museum projects in the state indicate that most such efforts move slowly.

Washtenaw County has the wealth and the will to provide an historical museum and to save some of its historic buildings. We should not be content to have the Ann Arbor House in Greenfield Village, residence of Robert Frost during his U. of M. days, represent our best efforts in preserving the past. Indeed, we can't even claim credit for that.

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List of ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND MEETINGS OF THE 1966-7 SEASON
for which manuscripts were not available

October: "Our Michigan," a talk by Professor Erich A. Walter, a delightful sampling of experiences in correspondence with alumni in preparation for his book of that title, with which the University ushered in its Sesquicentennial year.

January: Antiques - a Contagious Hobby, a lively discourse by Dr. Howard C. Ross in which he ranged through all history, showing how patterns of furniture, long afterward collected as "antiques," came to be developed.

February: Local Contributions to University Progress, a talk by Professor Howard H. Peckham in which, with his usual charm, he gave us the benefit of bits of his tireless research in preparation for his U. of M.-sponsored book, The Making of a University, official summary of its 150 years.

April: Historical Mill Sites on the Huron River, a talk by Robert L. Bryan, another of our series on the current study of the Huron River Valley, illustrated with unusual slides.

June 3: Annual Pilgrimage, a visit to the new Monroe Historical Museum, with dinner in the Towne House next door.

June 20: Annual business meeting and dinner, with election of officers, at the Michigan League.

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GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SECRETARY-TREASURER

This past year has been a very busy one for your secretary. Our newly revised Constitution and Bylaws made a number of changes necessary.

In the past, everyone paid $1 dues. This was changed to $2 for active members, $5 for sustaining members, and $3 for husbands and wives. Our life memberships were raised from $25 to $50. We have added 7 new life members during the year, and one of our faithful ones who had paid $25 for his life membership paid an extra $25. We received a bequest of $100 from the late Amelia Raiser, a charter member, and just this week were notified that the late Mildred Staebler had willed us $300, not yet paid. We now have $8,993.82 in our Museum Fund, known as the Life Membership Fund.

On November 16, 1966, the Huron Valley Advisor ran a front page article about the Washtenaw Historical Society and its need for a museum. This resulted in a gain of about 200 new members. We enrolled 221 new members in all during the year. We lost 12 by death, and 18 members resigned because they were leaving the city, or were dropped for non-payment of dues. Our present membership is 575.

We have a comfortable balance in our General Fund, and should be in an excellent position to meet the problems of the coming year.

July 15, 1967. Katherine S. Groomes, Sec.-Treas.